1. **Call to Order**

Chair Kula called the meeting to order. Chair Kula recognized that the meeting was held on Indigenous land: the traditional homelands of the Puyallup people.

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“We gratefully acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language.”
2. Consent Agenda

Commissioners Sanchez and Williams had excused absences.

Staff requested to move the Tacoma Mall Area Plan Artist Selection action item to a future meeting.

Chair Kula asked for a motion to approve the revised agenda as well as the minutes from the March meetings.

There was a motion: “I move to consent.”
Motion: Commissioner Wygle
Seconded: Commissioner Stump
Motion: Carried

Commissioners shared reflections on the life and work of Chandler O’Leary.

3. Chair’s Report/Housekeeping

Chair Kula led a check-in around the values-based behaviors developed by the DEI Subcommittee in 2022:
- Be a safe space maker
- Be yourself
- Practice empathy and respect
- Speak and share responsibly
- Be willing to experience discomfort and accept differences
- Hold each other accountable with care, being mindful of intentions and context
- Be open to learning; learning is iterative, and perfection is not achievable
- Be a support for each other

Commissioner Williams encouraged Commissioners to read the introduction to Kellie Richardson’s book, The Art of Naming My Pain, on the subjectivity of safe spaces.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Presentations

a. 2023-25 Tacoma Poet Laureate

Staff introduced Christian Paige, 2023-25 Tacoma Poet Laureate, and Christian gave an introduction and background about himself and delivered a poem. Christian shared his two-part vision for his role as poet laureate: first, that it is important for youth voices to be heard, and second, ensuring that voices of Black, Indigenous, and people of color do not get lost by creating active spaces for these voices. There was a discussion with Commissioners.

Commissioners Brown, Stump, Villeda, and Fernandez-Llamazares volunteered to help at the Pass the Torch event.

b. Sidewalk Mural in Dome District

Staff introduced artist David Long. David gave a presentation with the background on his proposed sidewalk mural followed by a discussion with Commissioners. There were concerns and questions raised about around the sourcing, authorship, anonymity, compensation, and crediting of people’s quotes used in this project. Next step will be voting at the May 8 Commission meeting.
6. Action Items
   a. Traffic Box Art Wraps Artist Selection
      Staff presented work samples of the 17 artists who were recommended by the panel to create artwork for the 2023 Traffic Box Art Wraps. The artists are: RR Anderson, Curtis Ashby, Anna Brones, Joseph Brooks, Bethnay Fackrell, Jeremy Gregory, Rodney King, Felina Martens, Mark Monlux, Loretta Morgan Fernandez, J.J. Noll, Jesse Peterson, Matamatanonofo Porter, Zak Rivera, Linda Sholberg, Mark Smith, and Anna Warnecke.

      The selection panel reviewed 120 eligible applicants. Commissioners Shakoor, Stump, and Brown served on the panel, along with community members. Commissioners asked questions and discussed.

      There was a motion “I motion to approve the seventeen finalists.”
      Motion: Commissioner Hoppe
      Second: Commissioner Wygle
      Motion: Carried

7. Discussion/Updates
   a. 2022 Annual Report Overview
      Staff shared the Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality’s 2022 Annual Report, highlighting the Arts Overview and ‘Impact by Council District’ sections, inclusion of quantitative and qualitative data through quotes and photos, links to videos, the new addition of a panelist section, and the Tacoma Creates overview with a link to Tacoma Creates’ full report. Commissioners discussed.

   b. Council Coffee Talking Points
      The 2022 Annual Report is a foundation for Council Coffee meetings. Staff briefly shared an outline of talking points for Council Coffees and asked Commissioners if there were any items the Commission wanted to advocate for or bring up in these meetings. Commissioners discussed. Staff asked for volunteer signups for the Council Coffee meetings.

   c. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee
      Commissioner Williams gave a report out about the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee meeting on March 16 including their desire to create a Labor Acknowledgement to follow the Land Acknowledgement for public meetings, panels, and events. The next DEI subcommittee meeting is April 20 at 4 PM.

8. Staff Check-In
   a. Staff Projects Overview and Updates
      Staff gave updates about the following items:
      • Pass the Torch will be held on April 12, 6-7 pm, at the Moore Library and livestreamed. Current poet laureate Lydia K. Valentine will welcome in Christian Paige. Staff asked for commission volunteers to help with set up, tear down, and in greeting attendees.
      • Upcoming Resources for Creatives:
          o April 19, from 6-7:30pm, is the LGBTQ+ Core Competency workshop presented by Rainbow Center and led by Charlie Best, Education Manager.
April 13, Artist Trust and Tacoma Arts Live are hosting a free workshop, Marketing and Building Your Network, from 6-8 PM at the Tacoma Armory. Registration is required to attend.

- The following dates are set for Tacoma Arts Month 2023: Proclamation on September 26, Kaleidoscope at STAR Center on October 5 with setup on October 4, Tacoma Studio Tour on October 14 and 15, and Arts at the Armory on November 11 and 12.
- Staff reminded Commissioners to submit content for the social media spotlight.
- Tacoma Artists Initiative Program (TAIP) funding contracts are underway and artists will be gathering for their first cohort meeting on April 13.
- Overview of TAIP mid-project meetings and Commission volunteer signups.

b. Public Art Updates (01:49:19)
   Staff gave an update about Jorge Garcia’s mural on the jersey barriers at S. 38th Street between State Route 7 and McKinley Ave.

c. Tacoma Creates (01:50:45)
   In partnership with Coleman & Associates, Tacoma Creates will be offering a JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion) Film Series: a screening of the docuseries Exterminate All the Brutes at The Grand Cinema. On April 12 and 19, and May 3 and 10, a different episode from this 4-part docuseries will be shown, with a short panel discussion following.

9. Report Back
   a. Advocacy Reports (01:53:10)
      There were no advocacy reports.
   
   b. Funded Project Updates/Arts Events Attended (01:53:10)
      Chair Kula gave a shout out to Vice Chair Sanchez’s theatrical play opening. Commissioner Fernandez-Llamazares attended Tacoma Opera’s production of *Tacoma Method*.

   c. Future Agenda Items for Consideration (01:53:43)
      Chair Kula suggested a future discussion about how to honor artists in the community who have passed.

10. Adjourn 7:03 pm (01:55:59)

MEETING FREQUENCY
Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 5:00 pm. All meetings of the Tacoma Arts Commission are open to the public.

To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Tacoma Arts Commission staff at (253) 591-5191. TTY or speech to speech users please dial (253) 581-5820 to connect with Washington Relay Services.